(b) if so, the details thereof and the names of States where these are located; and

(c) by when these are likely to be provided with drinking water?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (DEPARTMENT OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT) (SHRI UTTAMBHAI PATEL): (a) and (b) All States/Union Territories were requested to carry out a fresh survey of status of drinking water in rural habitations. The results of the survey are still awited as the data is processed and computerised. Details of the newly identified 'no source' villages/habitations will become available after the final results of the survey are made available.

(c) All uncovered/partially covered habitations are likely to be provided safe drinking water facilities by the end of the Eighth Five Year Plan.

Ranking of Air India amongst International Airlines

*79. SHRI K. K. VEERAPPAN :
SHRI V. GOPALSAMY: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the fact that Air India has been placed as one of the lowest ranking international airlines in the world;

(b) if so, whether any study has been ordered to probe into the reasons which made Air India to loose its image abroad; and

(c) what corrective steps Government propose to take to set things right ?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) to (c) An agency named In-Flight Research Services of London recently conducted a survey of the product and services in the First class of 31 airlines and the ranking given to Air India by this agency was 31. Air India has reported that it was approached by this agency in October, 1992 to participate in an airline survey seeking a financial contribution which Air India had declined. While a conclusion on the results of the survey can objectively be drawn after receipt of details which are awaited by Air India, Government have asked Air India to intensify efforts to improve its services to passengers on ground and upgrade the quality of its in-flight services.

Sick Industrial Units in Bihar

*80. SHRIMATI KAMLA SINHA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the fact that thousands of small scale industries in Bihar are sick and need to be revived; and

(b) if so, what steps are being taken to revive these sick industrial units in Bihar and elsewhere in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (DEPARTMENT OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES AND AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES) (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM) : (a) Yes, Sir. according to the Reserve Bank of India as atthee^d of March, 1992, the number of sick small .scale industrial units in Bihar was 7,823, out of which only 368 units have been found as potentially viable.

(b) Small scale industrial units become sick for variety of reasons. Important reasons are listed below:—

—Managerial
—Technological
—Marketing
—Infra-structural
—Financial

Both Central and State Government take measures for revival of sick units. These are as under:—

(1) To take care of the managerial problems. Government run training programmes for entrepreneurship development; organise workshops, hold clinics, etc

(2) To take care of the technological problems. Government has been providing inspection of the units by technical officers, workshop facilities through SISIs, testing facilities and other technical guidance and assistance through Regional Testing Centres, Tool Rooms and Product-cum-Process Development Centres.

(3) To take care of the marketing problem. Central Government provides marketing support though price preference, purchase preference in the Government Purchase Programme, marketing support through National Small Industries Corporation. State Governments provide marketing support through State Small Industries Development Corporation.

(4) Provision of infrastructural support is the responsibility of the State Governments

who make available developed industrial plots, sheds, etc.

(5) Central Government is also concerned with the provision of finance through finan cial institutions to the sick industrial units in their rehabilitation programmes. The steps taken/proposed to be taken to revive the sick units to take care of the financial problems are as under:—

(i) Inssuance of detailed guidelines by RBI to all scheduled commercial banks m regard to rehabilitation of sick units.

(ii) Financial assistance in the form of long term equity type assistance upto Rs. 1,50,000 to units with a project cost not exceeding Rs. 10 lakhs at a nominal service charge of one percent per annum is also available to potentially viable sick SSI units from the National Equity Fund set up in August, 1987.

(iii) At the instance of the Central Government, the RBI had constituted a Committee underthe Chairmanship of Ex-Deputy Governor, Shri P. R. Nayak, which submitted its report in September. 1922. The Committee looked into the problems of credit, sickness and other relevant aspects. The Committee has made several recommendations for the revival of sick units which include a modified definition of sick SSI units, creation of separate cells by banks, setting up of State Level Tribunals, use of DICs as a forum for redressal of grievances, revitalisation of State Level. Inter-Institutional Committees, etc. The RBI has already announced its decision on some of its recommendations such as modified definition of sick units and reduced rate of interest to be charged on the rehabilitation of sick units.

(iv) RBI has decided that SSI sector would be getting upto 20% of their annual output by way of working capital loan.

(v) SSI forms part of the priority sector lending programme of the banks.

(6) The Government has recently decided to conduct a Diagnostic Survey of sick SSI units in the country.

(7) State Level Inter-Institutional Committees (SLIICs) exist in all States to provide a useful forum for exchange of information and discussion on problems faced by SSI units.

Indian Nuclear Programme

445. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI:
SHRl IQBAL SINGH:
Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Indian nuclear programme is passing through a difficult phase due to the embargo after the Gulf War; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (SHRI BHUVNESH CHATURVEDI): (a)and(b) No, Sir. There is no specific embargo on Indian nuclear programme after the Gulf War.

Meghalaya and Shillong Visit of The Chairman, AEC

446. SHRI G.G. SWELL: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Chairman of the Atomic Energy Commission, accompanied by a team of his officers, visited Shillong and Meghalaya in June and held discussions with the State Government;

(b) if so, the purpose of the visit; and

(c) whether he made a commitment that if the people were opposed to ihe mining of uranium in the State where a rich find has been made, mining would not be undertaken there ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (SHRI BHUVNESH CHATURVEDI): (a) The Chairman, Atomic Energy Commission accompanied by a team of experts from the Department of Atomic Energy visited Meghalaya in the month of June 1993 and held discussions with the State Government and the Members of the Khasi Hills District Council.

(b) The purpose of the visit was to explain salient features of the mining project including the environmental safety of the operation and the benefits that would accrue to the State from the project.

(c) It was decided that a team of local representatives and Officials of the State Government would visit the working uranium mine at Jaduguda in Bihar to convince themselves of the complete safety and benignness of the operation. The mining project at Domiasiat will be taken up only after necessary clearances from the concerned authorities including the